

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-6, 8, 12-16 and 18, without prejudice; and amend Claims 7, 9, 17 and 19 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The magneto-optical A magneto-optical recording medium device according to claim 5, for at least reproducing information from a magneto-optical recording medium, comprising:~~

an optical head irradiating a light beam onto the magneto-optical recording medium; and

a bias magnetic field generator applying a bias magnetic field to the magneto-optical recording medium,

wherein a peak position of the bias magnetic field applied by the bias magnetic field generator deviates from the center of a light beam spot irradiated onto the magneto-optical recording medium in a predetermined direction;

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is structured of an electromagnet which includes a yoke extending along the radius direction of the magneto-optical recording medium and a coil wound around the yoke;

wherein a cross section of the yoke in the radius direction is left-right asymmetric on the magneto-optical recording medium; and

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is positioned so that the center position of the yoke in the approximate track direction coincides with the center position of the light beam spot in the approximate track direction.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The magneto-optical~~ A magneto-optical recording medium device according to claim 8, for at least reproducing information from a magneto-optical medium, comprising:

an optical head irradiating a light beam onto the magneto-optical recording medium; and

a bias magnetic field generator applying a bias magnetic field to the magneto-optical recording medium,

wherein a peak position of the bias magnetic field applied by the bias magnetic field generator deviates from the center of a light beam spot irradiated onto the magneto-optical recording medium in a predetermined direction;

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is structured of an electromagnet which includes a yoke extending along the radius direction of the magneto-optical recording medium and a coil wound around the yoke;

wherein the yoke is formed of a plurality of materials having different residual flux densities in the approximate track direction; and

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is positioned so that the center position of the yoke in the approximate track direction coincides with the center position of the light beam spot in the approximate track direction.

10. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium device at least reproducing information from a magneto-optical recording medium, comprising:

an optical head irradiating a light beam onto the magneto-optical recording medium; and

a bias magnetic field generator applying a bias magnetic field to the magneto-optical recording medium,

wherein, when reproducing information from a predetermined track of the magneto-optical recording medium, the bias magnetic field generator simultaneously applies a magnetic field for forming a front mask on the track and a magnetic field for forming a rear mask on the track, having different magnitude from the magnitude of the magnetic field for the front mask.

11. (Original) The magneto-optical recording medium device according to claim 10,

Wherein the peak position of the bias magnetic field is set so that the magnetic field necessary for forming the front mask differs from the magnetic field necessary for forming the rear mask on an arbitrary track.

12-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The magneto-optical~~ A magneto-optical recording medium device according to claim 15, for at least reproducing information from a magneto-optical medium housed in a cartridge, comprising:

an optical head having an object lens mounted thereon, irradiating a light beam on the magneto-optical recording medium;

a cartridge holder holding the cartridge; and

a bias magnetic field generator applying a bias magnetic field to the magneto-optical recording medium,

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is disposed so as to shift the peak position of the bias magnetic field in the width direction of the cartridge holder against the axis of the object lens;

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is structured of an electromagnet which includes a yoke extending along the radius direction of the magneto-optical recording medium and a coil wound around the yoke;

wherein a cross section of the yoke in the radius direction is left-right asymmetric on the magneto-optical recording medium; and

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is positioned so that the center position of the yoke in the approximate track direction coincides with the center position of the light beam spot in the approximate track direction.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The magneto-optical~~ A magneto-optical recording medium device according to claim 18, for at least reproducing information from a magneto-optical medium housed in a cartridge, comprising:

an optical head having an object lens mounted thereon, irradiating a light beam on the magneto-optical recording medium;

a cartridge holder holding the cartridge; and

a bias magnetic field generator applying a bias magnetic field to the magneto-optical recording medium,

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is disposed so as to shift the peak position of the bias magnetic field in the width direction of the cartridge holder against the axis of the object lens;

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is structured of an electromagnet which includes a yoke extending along the radius direction of the magneto-optical recording medium and a coil wound around the yoke;

wherein the yoke is formed of a plurality of materials having different residual flux densities in the approximate track direction; and

wherein the bias magnetic field generator is positioned so that the center position of the yoke in the approximate track direction coincides with the center position of the light beam spot in the approximate track direction.